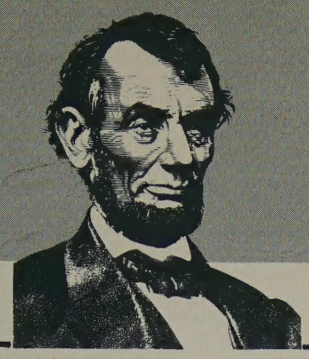

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
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JOHN HENRY BROWN'S MINIATURE PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Judge John M. Read of Philadelphia, a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, became disgusted during the 1860 presidential campaign with the horrible caricatures of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican presidential candidate. So at his own expense he sent John Henry Brown, a Philadelphia artist, to Springfield, Illinois, to paint Lincoln's picture. The cost of this venture was approximately $300, the price of the painting alone being $175. Judge Read's instruction to his artist was to make a good-looking picture of the "Railsplitter" whether the subject would justify it or not.

Brown went to Springfield with a great deal of apprehension that he would have difficulty in making a good picture if the subject were really ugly. He was very happy upon seeing Lincoln to discover that he was not at all such a man as had been represented, and instead of making a *picture* he would only have to make a *portrait*.

The artist kept a diary which eventually became the property of his son, Paul R. Brown, according to the *Evening Public Ledger* of February 10, 1937. The Foundation has been able to secure photographs of the original diary pages written in August, 1860. The diary reveals that Brown arrived in Springfield at three o'clock on Sunday morning, August 12th. He apparently left the Illinois capital about August 27th as his last Lincoln entry bears the above mentioned date.

On Monday, August 13th, Brown called on Lincoln and presented him with a letter of introduction from Judge Read. Lincoln consented to sit for a portrait. The artist's first step was to suggest that Mr. Lincoln have some photographs taken and they visited a studio where a half dozen ambrotypes were made by Preston Butler before Brown could get one to suit his purpose. Some of these photographs have been classified (see Meserve Nos. 29, 30 and 120. Lorant Nos. 31 and 33). One of the original ambrotypes eventually became the property of the Historical Society of Boston, Massachusetts. Another ambrotype was purchased by William H. Lambert from W. P. Brown of Philadelphia. The photograph designated as Meserve No. 120 (see Lorant No. 31) is in the Ida M. Tarbell Collection at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

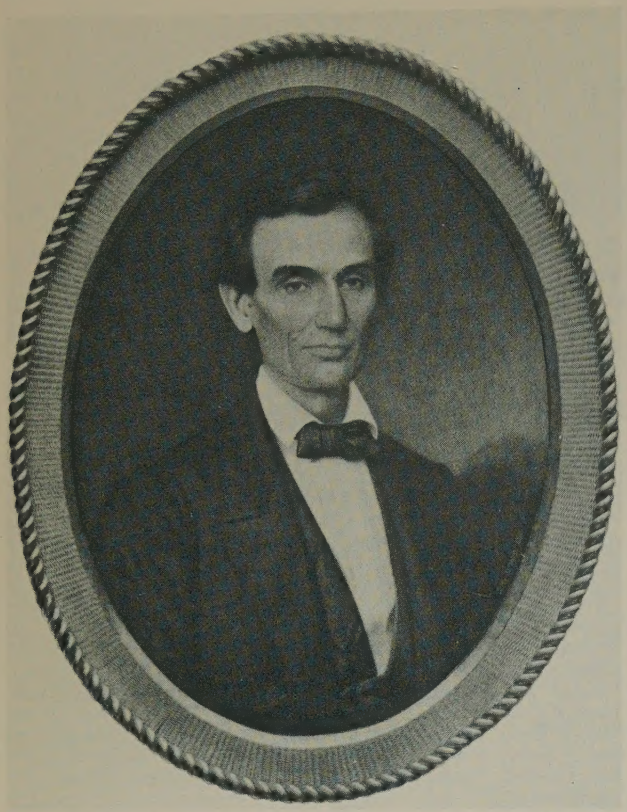
Lincoln gave Brown five sittings and the miniature portrait proved satisfactory. Mrs. Lincoln, according to the artist, spoke of it "in the most extravagant terms of approbation." In fact, the artist received letters from both Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln expressing their satisfaction with the portrait. John G. Nicolay, the future president's confidential secretary also expressed, by letter to the artist, his approval of the portrait.

Nicolay's enthusiasm about Brown's portrait was best expressed in a letter he wrote his fiancee Therena Bates on August 26, 1860:

1860. AUGUST, *Continued.*

Springfield, Illinois. 12. Sunday. Arrived here at three o'clock this morning. Wrote some letters.
" " 13. Called at Mr. Lincoln's house to see him. As he was not in, I was directed to the Executive Chamber, in the State Capitol. I found him there. Handed him my letters from Judge Read. He at once consented to sit for his picture. We walked together from the Executive Chamber to a daguerrean establishment. I had a half dozen of ambrotypes taken of him before I could get one to suit me. I was at once most favorably impressed with Mr. Lincoln. In the afternoon I unpacked my painting materials.
" " 14. Commenced Mr. Lincoln's picture; at it all day.
" " 15. At Mr. Lincoln's picture.
" " 16. Mr. Lincoln gave me his first sitting, in the library room of the State Capitol. Called to see Mrs. Lincoln; much pleased with her. Wrote five letters.
" " 17, 18. At Mr. Lincoln's picture. Received an invitation from Mrs. Lincoln to take tea with them.
" " 19. Sunday. Wrote letters.
" " 20. Mr. Lincoln's second sitting. Have arranged to have his sittings in the Representative Chamber.
" " 21. At Mr. Lincoln's picture. Heard from home; all well.
" " 22. Mr. Lincoln's third sitting.
" " 23. At Mr. Lincoln's picture.
" " 24. Mr. Lincoln's fourth sitting.
" " 25. Mr. Lincoln's fifth and last sitting. The picture gives great satisfaction; Mrs. Lincoln speaks of it in the most extravagant terms of approbation.
" " 26. Sunday. At church. Saw Mr. Lincoln there. I hardly know how to express the strength of my personal regard for Mr. Lincoln. I never saw a man for whom I so soon formed an attachment. I like him much, and agree with him in all things but his politics. He is kind and very sociable; immensely popular among the people of Springfield; even those opposed to him in politics speak of him in unqualified terms of praise. He is fifty-one years old, six feet four inches high, and weighs one hundred and sixty pounds. There are so many hard lines in his face that it becomes a mask to the inner man. His true character only shines out when in an animated conversation, or when telling an amusing tale, of which he is very fond. He is said to be a homely man; I do not think so. Mrs. Lincoln is a very fine-looking woman, apparently in excellent health, and seems to be about forty or forty-five years of age.
" " 27. The people of Springfield who have seen Mr. Lincoln's picture speak of it in strong terms of approbation, declaring it to be the best that has yet been taken of him. Received a letter from Mr. Lincoln indorsing the picture; also one from Mrs. Lincoln expressing her unqualified satisfaction with it; also one from Mr. John G. Nicolay, Mr. Lincoln's confidential clerk; and one from the man who took the ambrotype. This would be, I suppose, the proper place to say a word about Springfield, the prairie city, as it is sometimes called. It is a very pretty place; the streets eighty feet wide. It contains many very fine buildings, and has a population of about ten thousand.

McClure's Magazine, March 1898, featured those pages of Brown's diary which deal with the artist's contacts with Lincoln.



The Lincoln miniature painted on ivory from life at Springfield, Illinois, in 1860, by John Henry Brown, at the request of Judge John M. Read of Philadelphia. This print appeared (the size of the original) in natural colors in *The Century Magazine* of February, 1909. The caption stated that the original was owned by the Hon. Robert T. Lincoln.

"Did you ever see a real pretty miniature? I do not mean either an ambrotype, a daguerreotype or photograph, but a regular miniature painted on ivory. Well, a philadelphia artist (Brown, his name is), has just been painting one of Mr. Lincoln, which is both very pretty and very truthful—decidedly the best picture of him that I have seen. It is about twice as large as a common quarter-size daguerreotype or ambrotype, but so well executed that when magnified to life size one cannot discover any defects or brush marks on it at all. It gives something of an idea of what a *painter*—I main a real artist, can do. It has been painted for Judge Read of Philadelphia, who has become so disgusted with the horrible carcicatures of Mr. Lincoln which he has seen that he went to the expense of sending this artist all the way out here to paint this picture, which will probably cost him some $300., the price of the painting alone being $175. I had a long talk with the artist today. . . He says that the impression prevails East that Mr. Lincoln is very ugly, an impression which the published pictures of him of course all confirm. Read however had an idea that it could hardly be so—but was bound to have a good looking picture, and therefore instructed the artist to make it good looking whether the original would justify it or not. The artist says he came with a good deal of foreboding that he would have difficulty in making a picture under these conditions. He says he was very happy when on seeing him he found that he was not at all such a man as had been represented, but that instead of making a picture he would only have to paint a portrait to satisfy Judge Read. He will go back home as agreeably disappointed in Mr. Lincoln's manners, refinement and general characteristics, as in his personal appearance."

After Brown returned to Philadelphia his miniature portrait was deemed worthy of wide circulation and the painting was copied by Samuel Sartain, a skillful engraver, in a mezzotint and was sold extensively during the campaign. However, before the mezzotint was placed on sale there was considerable apprehension, on the part of the politicians, about the delay. About a month following Brown's departure from Springfield he wrote Lincoln's secretary.

Phila Friday Sept. 28, 1860

"John G. Nicolay, Esq.

"My dear Sir: I presume you are wondering why you have not yet seen or heard anything of the steel engraving from my picture of Mr. Lincoln.

"Mr. Sartain promised to have it completed within two weeks after the picture was placed in his hands, which was on last Monday three weeks ago.

"Two days ago the first proof was placed in my hands for criticism. I suggested some alterations which have been made. To-day I will again examine it with care, and if necessary will have such further corrections made as my judgment may suggest. In accordance with my promise to you I will not allow any copies to be issued until they meet my approbation.

"Judge Read is in a nervous condition at Sartain's delay. He thinks the engraving good, and wanted some copies yesterday, but as I am judge in this case, I would not consent.

"As soon as the plate is ready for printing from, which I think will be tomorrow or on Monday next, copies will be sent to you without delay.

"Please make my compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

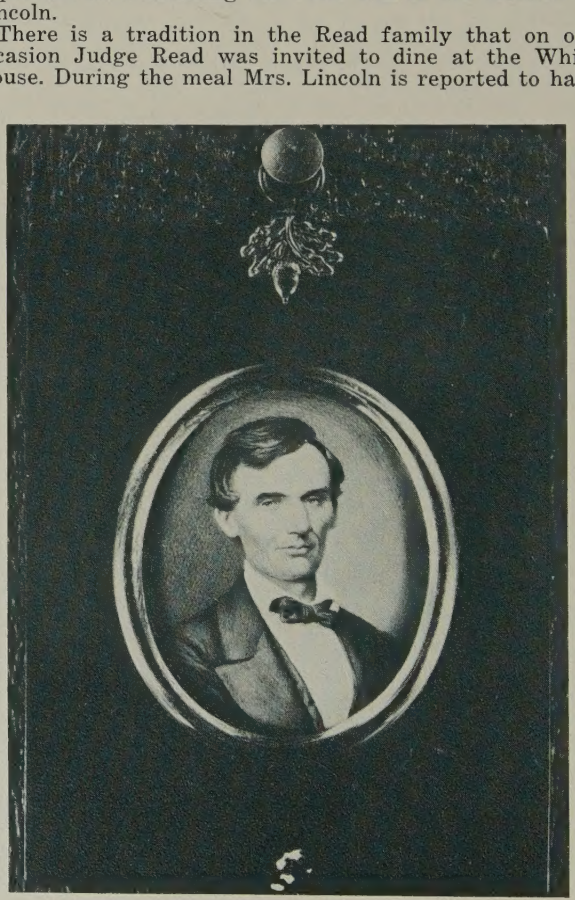
"I am dear sir, your friend & servant,

"J. Henry Brown.

"P. S. Mr. Lincoln's friends here are in high spirits and full of hope."

In August 1860, when the Brown miniature was painted, Mr. Lincoln's face was smooth-shaven but by November he was letting his whiskers grow. This necessitated the addition of a beard to the mezzotint engraving to bring the portrait up to date. So there were two engravings by Sartain of the Brown miniature, which show Lincoln as clean shaven and with a beard. The beardless Sartain engraving is said to have been quite important in influencing the voter and in the election of Lincoln.

There is a tradition in the Read family that on one occasion Judge Read was invited to dine at the White House. During the meal Mrs. Lincoln is reported to have



This miniature portrait of Lincoln by John Henry Brown is in possession of a Washington, D. C. collector. It is not to be confused with the original made in 1860 for Judge John M. Read of Philadelphia.

said, "Judge, the portrait you ordered painted of Mr. Lincoln, is the best ever made of my husband. I often wish it were mine." The Judge replied, "It is entirely at your service, madam." Then Mrs. Lincoln inquired, "When will you send it to me Judge?" He replied, "As soon as I reach home, madam." The miniature according to the legend was sent to Mrs. Lincoln with regret as it filled a niche in the Read library by the side of a portrait of Andrew Jackson, also painted from life.

The present location of the original Brown miniature of Lincoln is unknown. In February 1909, The *Century Magazine* published a print of the miniature in color. The caption stated that the magazine print was a reproduction "From the original owned by the Hon. Robert T. Lincoln." According to correspondence in the Foundation files, the executor of the estate of Robert T. Lincoln stated that no ivory miniature portrait of the sixteenth president was among the son's affects.

There are also other complications. There are two miniature portraits of Lincoln by John Henry Brown. The second one is in the possession of a Washington, D. C. collector but it is not the one Brown made in 1860 for Judge Read.

Biographical Note

John Henry Brown was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1818. He entered Arthur Armstrong's painting room when he was eighteen, and was immediately put to work painting signs. He never received any instruction. At twenty-six he launched his career as a painter of miniatures, moving later to Philadelphia, where he established a studio at 207 South Thirteenth Street.

While Brown was a self-made man he painted miniatures of persons prominent in the social and political life of the country. His leather-bound diary forms a social register of Philadelphia, New York and Southern cities. In the National Museum in Washington is a miniature of James Buchanan, fifteenth president, by Brown, who also painted Buchanan's niece Harriet Lane, White House hostess during his administration.

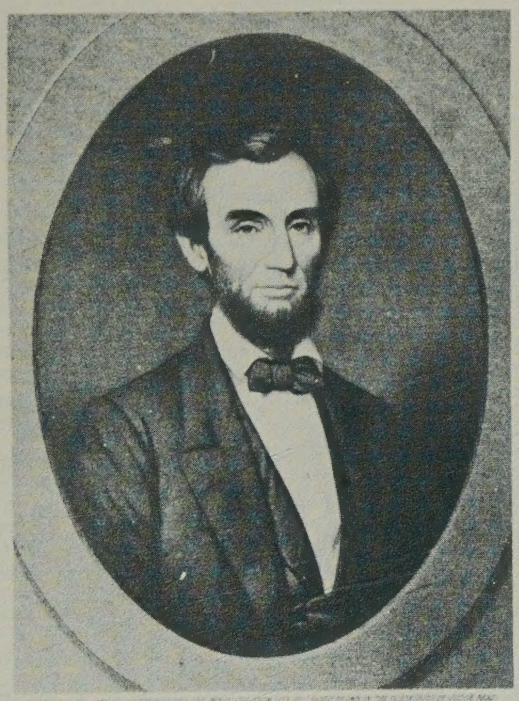
John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln was Brown's patron. In the diary is a notation that Booth and Lawrence Barrett (also an actor) were walking down Chestnut Street one day and Booth said: "Let's go in and see Brown; I'll have him copy a portrait on ivory."

Brown's diary written with meticulous precision records the names of his patrons as they multiplied year by year between 1836 and 1891. The artist's patrons included Mrs. John C. Bullitt, Mrs. John Wanamaker, A. Campbell Harris, George Foles Baker, Miss Helen K. Bullitt, George H. Baker (who had a horror of black clothes for men or women), Alexander Henry, Mayor of Philadelphia, Mrs. Charles Pepper and Richard Wistar.

Other notable Philadelphians who patronized Brown were Alexander Biddle, William Weightmann, J. D. Lankenau, Mrs. A. J. Drexel, Miss Rebecca Biddle, Miss Catharine Ashurst, former Governor Francis of Rhode Island, R. J. C. Walker of Williamsport, and Joseph Hopkinson, author of "Hail Columbia." Planters from the South and many beautiful belles of Southern cities engaged the services of Brown two years in advance. Many of his miniatures were on exhibit at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876.

Brown's last diary entry dated July 12, 1889 consists of one short line: "Stopped wearing a wig."

Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger
February 10, 1937



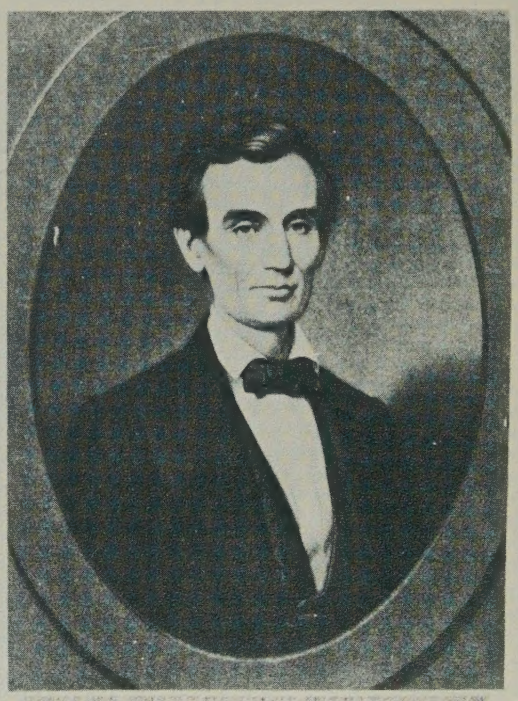


PLATE 17

From Winfred Porter Truesdell's "Engraved and Lithographed Portraits of Abraham Lincoln." 1933.

The Samuel Sartain engravings after the miniature from life by J. Henry Brown in the possession of Judge Read. The beardless print was published by James Irwin, 728 Sansom Street, Philadelphia. The bearded print was published by Sam'l. Sartain, 726 Sansom Street, Philadelphia.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY—1959-1960

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 2 Masterson Road, Bronxville, N. Y.; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Richard F. Lufkin, 45 Milk Street, Boston, 9, Mass.; Wayne C. Temple, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago 11, Ill., William H. Townsend, 310 First National Bank Bldg., Lexington 3, Ky.; and Clyde C. Walton, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.

New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Editor's Note: During the remainder of the year (1960) the Lincoln Lore Cumulative Bibliography will carry many additional 1959 Lincoln titles as the publications are acquired and compiled. Again it is necessary to state that United States Information Service items are not available for distribution in the United States and requests for publications listed are not obtainable in Washington, D. C. or posts abroad.

1959

—ARABIC—

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-213
(Translation): Abraham Lincoln.
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 5¼" x 8¼", (20) pp., illus. 200 copies distributed in Tunis, Tunisia. Printed in the Arabic language.

—BURMESE—

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-214
Translation): A Lincoln. Leader of the people.
Pamphlet, paper, 6½" x 5", (15) pp., 14 illus. Printed in the Burmese language. See 1959-223.

—CHINESE—

CHINA, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF POSTS 1959-215
(Block of 4 Sun-Yat-sen—Lincoln stamps)/"Leaders of Democracy"/Postage Stamps/(Caption title).
Brochure, silk cloth, 5¾" x 8", (6) pp., boxed. Commemorating the sesquicentennial of Lincoln's birth, the Chinese Postal Administration issued a set of Leaders of Democracy postage stamps on Dec. 25, 1959. Printed in Chinese with English translation.

—INDIAN-HINDI—

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-216
(Translation): Abraham Lincoln/1809-1865.
Pamphlet, paper, 7" x 9¼", (62) pp. Illustrated in color. Juvenile. Printed in the Indian-Hindi language. See 1958-49.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-217
(Translation): Abraham Lincoln Speaks. A Selection of the Writings and Sayings of a Great American.
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 7" x 9¾", 60 pp., illus. Printed in the Indian-Hindi language. See 1959-100.

—SPANISH—

(MONAGHAN, JAY) 1959-218
(Head of Lincoln)/Abraham Lincoln/1809-1865/(Cover title).
Folder, paper, 4" x 6", (4) pp. Distributed by the U. S. Information Service. Printed in the Spanish language.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-219
Suplemento de Carta Pedagogica/Bs. 3.000 en premios/para estudiantes de Bachillerato y Normal en el gran Concurso de Ensayos: "Asi pienso yo de Lincoln"/("This is what I think of Lincoln"/Bases pag. 11/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 8" x 6", (14) pp., illus. Supplement to monthly magazine Carta Pedagogica by USIS Caracas for teachers and educators in Venezuela. Printed in the Spanish language.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-220
(Bearded head of Lincoln)/A Lincoln/"resolvanos firmente que estos muertos no hayan perecido en vano; . . ."/("we firmly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain")/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 5¼" x 8", (8) pp., illus. Printed in the Spanish language.

—VIETNAMESE—

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-221
(Translation): Abraham Lincoln Speaks/A Selection of the Writings and/Sayings of a Great American.
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 7" x 9¾", 60 pp., illus. Printed in the Vietnamese language. See 1959-100.

RUSSIN, ROBERT I. 1959-222
Abraham Lincoln/Robert I. Russin Sculptor/Sculpture Lincoln Highway Summit/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 6" x 9", (12) pp. World's largest bronze head of Lincoln, dedicated Oct. 18, 1959, located on summit of U. S. Highway 30, 10 miles southeast of Laramie, Wyoming.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-223
(Sketch of Lincoln, bearded face)/A Lincoln man of the people)/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 6½" x 5", (15) pp., 14 illus. Contents similar to 1959-123. Additional text on page (8).

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE 1959-224
(Sketches of Lincoln and Gandhi)/They belong to the ages . . . Abraham Lincoln/Mahatma Gandhi/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 7" x 8½", (24) pp., illus. Printed at Punjab National Press, Delhi.

—1960—

KINCAID, ROBERT L. 1960-23
Abraham Lincoln:/Miracle of Democracy/by/Robert L. Kincaid, L.L.D., D.Litt/President Emeritus, Lincoln Memorial University/Harrogate, Tennessee/(Lincoln photo)/Address at Annual Meeting/Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin/Madison/February 10, 1959/Historical Bulletin No. 18/19609(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 7¼" x 10", 14 pp.

SEARCHER, VICTOR 1960-24
Lincoln's Journey/to Greatness/A Factual Account of the Twelve-Day/Inaugural Trip/Victor Searcher/(device)/The John C. Winston Company/Philadelphia..Toronto.
Book, cloth, 5½" x 8½", viii p., 279 pp., fr., illus., price $4.50. First Edition.

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Lincoln Images/Augustant College/Centennial Essays/by/ O. Fritiof Ander, Ernest M. Espelie/Norman A. Graebner, Ralph J. Roske/Robert M. Sutton, Clyde C. Walton/T. Harry Williams/Edited by/O. Fritiof Ander/Augustant College Library/Rock Island, Illinois/1960.
Book, cloth, 6¼" x 9½", 161 pp., fr., illus., price $3.95.

LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA 1960-26
Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry/An address by Professor A. P. Martin/The First Battle of Bull Run/July 21st, 1861/An address by William M. McCulloch/"The Mind of Lincoln"/An address by Thomas H. Walsh/Being the Substance of Addresses/Delivered Before the/Lincoln Fellowship/of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada/at the Scottish Rite Club/on the evening of/February 12, 1960/(Cover title).
Pamphlet, paper, 5½" x 8¼", (16) pp.

McCLURE, STANLEY W. 1960-27
The/Lincoln Museum/and the/House Where Lincoln Died/Washington, D. C./by Stanley W. McClure/(sketch of an splitting log)/National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 3/Washington, D. C., 1949/(Revised 1960).
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 6" x 9¼", 42 pp., illus. Revision of 1949-56.

PETERSON, WILLIAM J. 1960-28
The Palimpsest/Edited by William J. Petersen/Vol. XLI Issued in March 1960 No. 3/Copyright 1960 by The State Historical Society of Iowa.
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 5½" x 8", 145-176 pp., illus. Abraham Lincoln and His Friends by J. Raymond Chadwick 161-173 pp.

WARFORD, WILLIAM S. 1960-29
William S. Warford/President Lincoln and the Office Seeker: Mission Unaccomplished/Reprinted from the/Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. LIII, No. 1, Spring 1960.
Pamphlet, paper, 6¼" x 9½", 64-69 pp., illus. Limited to 200 numbered and signed copies.

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The Lincoln Digest/Bulletin No. 4/Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor/Published by/The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company/Fort Wayne, Indiana/Collecting Lincoln Pennies/(Caption title).
Folder, paper ,4" x 5", (4) pp., Revision of 1940-5.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION 1960-31
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Folder, paper, 8½" x 11", 4 pp., illus. Number 1464, Horse Sense and Horseplay at the National Republican Convention Chicago, Illinois, May 16-18, 1860; 1465, Cooper Union Legends Scrutinized . . .; 1466, Cumulative Bibliography—1959; 1467, Tom Thumb Visits The White House . . .